

London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership Inclusion & Civic Engagement Sub-council Thursday, April 22, 2010

Present: Michael Goodmurphy, Suzanne Huot, Anna Hendrikx, Joan Fisher, Valy Marochko, Bernie Koeing, Janice Walter, Jason Hastings, Andrea Hallam, Rose Aquino, Janette Butler, Maria Vasquez, Saleh Alathamena, Sue Switzer, Arlene Thompson, Lourdes Assis, Oscar Enriquez, Nassisse Solomon, Estela Quintero-Weldon, German Gutierrez, and Nina Hamou.

Regrets: Brenda Qureshi, Elisabete Rodrigues, Robin Armistead, and David Cottrill.

Welcome and Introductions

German thanked everyone for their attendance.

Updates

The group was reminded to RSVP, before May 19, regarding their attendance to the Community Strategy Meeting on Wed May 26, 2010 at the London Convention Centre, at 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.

German thanked the sub-group who volunteered their time to work on the rationale and timelines.

Valy Marochko, brought the groups attention to a disturbing and inaccurate article in the London Free Press which states that Afghanistan, Pakistan, Algeria and Morocco are 'terrorist-producing countries' and that asylum seekers from these countries are not screened for criminality or security. The reality is that there are very few asylum seekers in London from those countries and the majority of refugees are Government Assisted Refugees selected by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. All of them are properly screened before their arrival in Canada.

ACTION: Nina to share the link to this article with Sub-council members.

Meeting Minutes

The Sub-council reviewed and approved the meeting minutes.

Review of Draft Template & Wrap-up

Rationales and other pending items were reviewed by the Sub-council. Additions and revisions were made to the priorities template.

The group re-arranged the order of priorities in the following manner:

1. Promote skills based engagement at all levels of society, while recognizing that this may not be a linear path
2. Enhance knowledge amongst host community in engaging immigrants .

3. Increase access to Shared Space
4. Lack of Engagement of Youth
5. Lack of Engagement of Youth
6. Barriers to Accessing Services

The group agreed to endorse the recommendations regarding shared space made in the report, "Increasing Access to Community Space for Ethno-cultural Groups in London."

The Sub-council agreed it is important to acknowledge the work of the "[London Strengthening Neighbourhoods 5 Year Strategy and Implementation Plan](#)" and other local initiatives that overlap with the work of this Sub-council.

ACTION: Janice Walter volunteered to review and edit the language in the document and include work that is being done at the local level.

The following advocacy items were added:

- Employment and recognition of foreign credentials is part of inclusion
- Tax credit for renting space to community organizations
- Inclusion of immigrants in decision making and/or collaboration at all levels of social commitment: domestic, organizational (Advisory committees, task forces, coalitions, working groups, boards of directors), entrepreneurial, and politics: municipal, provincial and federal.

Next Steps

The group was reminded that this is not the last meeting. This Sub-council will convene again to monitor the implementation of the strategic plan.

Next meeting:
Community Strategy Meeting
London Convention Centre
Wednesday, May 26, 2010
RSVP to nhamou@uwlondon.on.ca

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